

Message Text

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56

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-13 SAM-01 SAB-01 /094 W

----- 070316

R 291451Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4536

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

UNCLAS NICOSIA 3030

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LE, CY, IS

SUBJECT: ALLEGED ISRAELI ATTACK ON CYPRUS SHIP CARRYING KAMAL
JUMBLATT

1. ON SEPTEMBER 27 AND 28 CYPRUS NEWSPAPERS GAVE PROMINENT
COVERAGE TO A STORY THAT A CYPRUS FLAG PASSENGER VESSEL CARRY-
ING KAMAL JUMBLATT HAD BEEN ATTACKED BY AN ISRAELI PATROL BOAT
ON ITS WAY FROM SIDON IN LEBANON TO LIMASSOL, CYPRUS.
THE GOS SEEMED TO GIVE MORE CREDENCE TO THIS STORY WHEN ITS
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE ISSUED A "POLICE BULLETIN" ON
SEPTEMBER 27 REPORTING A COMPLAINT BY THE LEBANESE CAPTAIN
OF THE BOAT TO GOC AUTHORITIES ABOUT THE INCIDENT.

2. THE ISRAELI EMBASSY HERE IS MAKING NO COMMENT ABOUT THE
INCIDENT, AS AN ISRAELI EMBOFF REPORTED ON SEPT. 28 THAT THEY
HAD RECEIVED NO INQUIRIES. IF ASKED, THE EMBASSY PLANS TO
REFER TO A STATEMENT ISSUED BY ISRAELI MILITARY AUTHORITIES
THAT NO ISRAELI CRAFT IS INVOLVED IN THE ALLEGED INCIDENT.
ISRAELI EMBOFF NOTED THAT IN CONVERSATION WITH ISRAELI AMBAS-
SADOR SEPT. 27 GOC FOREIGN MINISTER CHRISTOPHIDES DID NOT REFER
TO THE STORY.

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3. JUMBLATT WAS NOT INJURED IN THE INCIDENT AND DEPARTED
LARNACA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BY PRIVATE AIRCRAFT FOR CAIRO
ON SEPT. 27.

4. ON SEPT 29 GOC FONOFF DIRGEN PELAGHIAS TOLD US THAT DAMAGE
TO VESSEL HAS BEEN CONFIRMED. HOWEVER, HE HAS ASKED CAPTIAN
TO COME TO NICOSIA TO BE INTERVIEWED BY FONOFF ON DETAILS OF
ALLEGED ATTACK BEFORE DECISION IS MADE ON POSSIBLE DEMARCHE
TO THE ISRAELI EMBASSY.
CRAWFORD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SHIP HARASSMENT, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NICOSI03030
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760369-0073
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976097/aaaaafzt.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <22 DEC 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLEGED ISRAELI ATTACK ON CYPRUS SHIP CARRYING KAMAL JUMBLATT
TAGS: PFOR, LE, CY, IS, (JUMBLATT, KAMAL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006